

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 01284 101536Z

62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01

/070 W

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R 101440Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6976

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL OPORTO

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 1284

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PO, SW

SUBJECT: CONTROVERSY WITHIN SWEDISH LEFT OVER DEVELOPMENTS
IN PORTUGAL

REF: LISBON 1316

1. PRIME MINISTER PALME AND THE GOS SHOW NO SIGNS OF
STINTING IN THEIR SUPPORT FOR PRESENT-DAY PORTUGAL AND
SOCIALIST LEADER MARIO SOARES. PALME WILL TRAVEL TO
OPORTO MARCH 13-15 WITH BRANDT AND KREISKY UNDER SOCIALIST
INTERNATIONAL AUSPICES. PORTUGUESE EDUCATION MINISTER
VITOR ALVES WILL VISIT STOCKHOLM BEGINNING MARCH 14, AND
FOREIGN MINISTER MELO ANTUNES WILL VISIT SWEDEN
MARCH 22-23. LEFTWING FACTIONS IN THE SWEDISH SOCIAL
DEMOCRATIC PARTY, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN EITHER UNCHARACTER-
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PAGE 02 STOCKH 01284 101536Z

ISTICALLY SILENT ABOUT OR SLIGHTLY SOUR IN THEIR COMMENTS

ON DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL SINCE THE ABORTIVE COUP EFFORT OF NOVEMBER 1975. RADICAL EXTREMISTS AND COMMUNISTS OF VARIOUS SHADES HAVE RECENTLY MOUNTED SEVERAL PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS CONDEMNING SOARES AS "PAVING WAY FOR REACTION."

2. WHEN SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER PALME TURNED UP MARCH 3 AT A STOCKHOLM TOWN HALL RALLY ON BEHALF OF TOURIST TRAVEL TO PORTUGAL, ORGANIZED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE PORTUGUESE EMBASSY, HE WAS GREETED BY DEMONSTRATORS SHOUTING SLOGANS AND CARRYING, SIGNS READING "NO MONEY TO THE LACKEY OF IMPERIALISM--SOARES" AND "SOARES PAVES THE WAY FOR REACTION." IN BRIEF SPEECH, PALME SAID PORTUGAL NEEDS INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY, INCLUDING TOURIST TRAVEL, AND PRAISED EFFORTS OF SWEDISH TRAVEL INDUSTRY TO ENCOURAGE SWEDISH TRAVEL TO PORTUGAL. PALME'S APPEARANCE AT THIS EXHIBIT WAS DESCRIBED IN THE PRESS AS "EXTREMELY UNUSUAL." ALSO PRESENT: PORTUGUESE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN TRADE AND TOURISM JORGE CAMPINOS AND LO CHIEF GUNNAR NILSSON.

3. AFTONBLADET, STOCKHOLM DAILY OWNED BY TRADE UNIONS (LO), HAS CARRIED RECENT REPORTS FROM ITS LISBON CORRESPONDENTS KATARINA ENGBERG AND BENGT PERSSON PROPAGATING THESIS THAT "FASCISTS ARE COMING BACK, LOOKS LIKE OLD TIMES AGAIN" AND EXPLOITING RETURN TO PORTUGAL OF SANCHEZ OSORIO.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ITINERARY, POLITICAL SITUATION, GOODWILL VISITS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STOCKH01284
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760091-0372
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760374/aaaacnbb.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LISBON 1316
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 AUG 2004 by meiwc>; APPROVED <08 DEC 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTROVERSY WITHIN SWEDISH LEFT OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PO, SW, (SOARES, MARIO), (PALMER), (ALVES, VITOR), (ANTUNES),
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006